

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 8, 2006  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Kenneth Zichi and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Kenneth Zichi, Mayor Pro-tem Robert Hanna, Council members Penny Davis, Michelle Hyne, George Monroe, Brian O'Connell, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, EDC Members Dan Frank, Pam Jeffers, and Mike Thomas, DDA Members Bev O'Malia, Barb Vandenberg, and Tom Mitchell, ZBA member John Pratt, and citizens Terri Campbell, Bryan Smith, and Dan Hulbert.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Move item 8a. to Discussion item 9a. and add 9d. Hickory Lane Parking.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Bryan Smith of Hickory Lane commented on the bad condition and problems in front of his house at the end of the dead end street. He stated that kids often fall off their bikes because of the uneven surface of the road. There are cars that are parking there during High School events. He believes that the road was not made to accommodate that many cars or be used for heavy parking. He stated that snow plows often get stuck at the end of the road. There has been a lot of debris left over from previous work done on the road. He piled up the debris that was left there and was told by the Williamston Police Department that he would be ticketed if he did not remove the pile. He was unaware of who is responsible for fixing the road. Mr. Smith would like the City Manager to look into why he was being ticketed. He also would like to see one more "no parking" sign posted on the other side of the street and the road to be repaired.

**6. Council Minutes of March 30, 2006 & April 24, 2006:**

On page 4, item ii., 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 5 lines down change "Member Davis has" to "Doug Price" and in the next sentence change "retract their statements" to "not vote on the issue".

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the special meeting Council minutes of March 30, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 24, 2006 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$245,375.92 and included payments to consultants, legal fees, utilities, sidewalk repairs, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 6673-6750.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe. No: none. **Motion passed.**

**8. Action Items**

**8a. Set Budget Workshop:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to set a Council Budget Workshop for Tuesday, Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8b. Budget Amendments:**

Council asked the City Manager to look into some of the budget amendment items for explanation of what they are for.

Motion by **O'Connell**, second by **Hyne**, to table the budget amendments until the next regular Council meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**9. Discussion Items**

**9a. Putnam/High Street Parking Lot:**

Manager Hitchcock reported that the City will be receiving millings from the E. Riverside Street project. This will provide the City with enough millings to cover the High Street parking lot. The contractor is giving the millings to the City as long as they provide the truck to haul it out. The City is not paving it this year because it is expected to be included in a future parks plan and the lot may need to be altered.

Pam Jeffers questioned if the milling would be done before the first Farmers' Market. Manager Hitchcock replied that it would be. Councilmember Hyne asked if the millings would be small and not too big. Manager Hitchcock responded that the millings will be small. Councilman O'Connell questioned whether the amount to pay for the truck will be under \$2000. Manager Hitchcock replied that it should be.

**9b. Open Burning:**

Council discussed the Burning Ordinance and was in agreement that the current guidelines are too restrictive and are outdated due to the enclosed outdoor fireplaces and chimneys that are now available. The Council discussed items they would like to see in a revised ordinance such as the fire should always have

an attendant present, ashes should not be in the air, omitting the contingency that there must be cooking of food to have a fire. Council directed City staff to draft a temporary ordinance to allow outdoor fireplaces for a first reading at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Council members O'Connell, Hyne, and Hanna volunteered to serve on the Burning Ordinance Sub-Committee to work on a revised burning ordinance.

**9c. Wells Drive Sidewalk:**

Council discussed that a walking path was proposed with the street connections between Foxborough St. and Georgia St. Councilmember Davis wants the City to be sure that it will be easy to get around the gates.

**9d. City Manager's Employment Contract:**

Councilman Hanna reported that he looked into whether the City is paying too much or too little for the City Manager salary. He found that Williamston is average according to what other similar communities were paying in 2003/2004. There was not enough data to compare it to statistics in 2004/2005. He stated that any and all comments and/or suggestions from fellow Council members would be appreciated. Councilman Monroe commented that the negotiations can be unique in that they can offer more vacation time in lieu of money. They want to have a recommendation to the Council by the next meeting with Council taking action on it at the first meeting in June. The contract will be for five years with an evaluation every two years.

**9e. Hickory Lane Parking:**

Manager Hitchcock reported that there was a traffic control order in 2000 for the opposite side of the road. Hitchcock asked the Council if they would want a traffic control order for the area strictly in front of the last two houses or a traffic control order for the whole end of the street. She reminded the Council that Hickory Lane is a public street and this could trigger more people on public streets to request parking restrictions. Hitchcock added that the Police Department has been directed to spend more time patrolling there.

**11. Staff Reports**

**11a. City Manager:**

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review and added that MIOSHA was contacted regarding a work related complaint. They walked through the Community Center Building and will be running tests on their findings and will report back to the City.

**11b. City Attorney:**

No report.

**11c. Treasurer:**

Treasurer Dolley submitted the financial report for April 2006 for Council review.

**11d. Planning & Development Administrator:**

Administrator Wilson submitted a report for Council review.

**11e. Community Development Director:**

Director Alfredson submitted a report for Council review.

**12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports**

**12a. Legislative Director:**

Councilman O'Connell submitted a written report for Council review.

**13. Audience Participation:**

Terri Campbell reported that the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Agriculture met and discussed the generosity that Williamston has shown by giving them wetland area to manage in the City.

**14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the goal of the sculptures in the flower bed done by Mark Chatterly was not that people would be in a 100% agreement regarding the style of the statues. The statues were just a form of expression and to celebrate the types of art that are out there. He added that Community Development Director Alison Alfredson is trying to get art in McCormick Park which will be nice.

Councilman Hanna commented that he believes the Planning Commission is doing a great job and should be commended for their hard work.

Councilmember Hyne thanked Bryan Smith for attending the meeting and giving his views on the issues with Hickory Lane.

Mayor Zichi congratulated Bev O'Malia for being name Rotarian of the Year. He also commented that the Garden Club will not be putting planters on the bridge this year.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:19 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk**

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**Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor**

**Date Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_